UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

LIMITED
ST/CEPAL/Conf.53/L.3
17 September 1976
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
San Jerónimo Lídice, México City
September 13 - 17, 1976

REPORT OF THE MEETING*

* This text should be regarded as provisional not only in terms of its editorial presentation due to the short period of time available for its elaboration, but also in terms of possible mistakes in interpretation which may also be due to similar reasons.

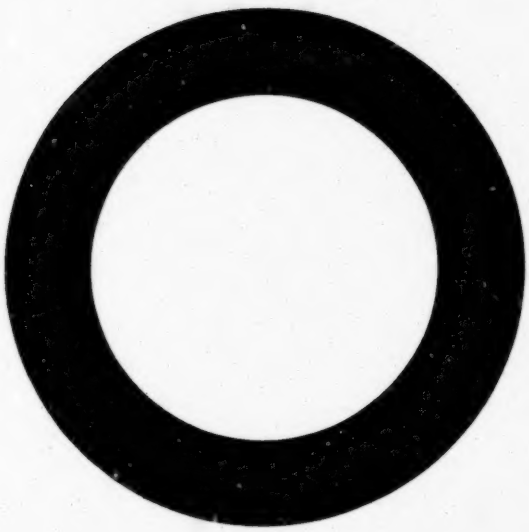

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Part I. Organization of the Meeting	1-20	
1. Place and date	1	1
2. Attendance	2- 6	1
3. Inaugural address	7- 8	2
4. Message from the Canadian Government	9	2
5. Election of Officers	10	3
6. Agenda and documents	11-12	3
7. Organization of work	13-18	4
8. Closing Meeting	19-20	5
Part II. Summary of Proceedings	21-66	6
1. General discussion	21-46	6
2. Regional co-operation in matters related to human settlements	46-57	11
3. Other subjects	58-66	14
Part III. Recommendations of the Meeting	67-68	20
Draft prepared by the Latin American Group on Regional Co-operation on Matters Regarding Human Settlements	67	20
Recommendations concerning the United Nations Conference on water	68	25

/Annexes

	Page*
Annexes	i
I. Opening addresses of the Regional Latin American Meeting on Human Settlements.	ii
1. Opening address delivered by His Excellency, Mr. Luis Echeverria Alvarez, President of Mexico	iii
2. Words delivered by the General Secretary of HABITAT, Mr. Enrique Peñalosa	vii
3. Words spoken by Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of ECLA at the inauguration of the Meeting on Human Settlements	x
4. Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Ignacio Ovalle Fernandez, Secretary of the Presidency and Chairman of the Meeting at the First Plenary Session	xvii
II. Message addressed to the Regional Latin American Meeting on Human Settlements by His Excellency, Mr. Barry Danson, Federal Minister of Urban Affairs in Canada	xxiii
III. List of Members participating in the Meeting	xxv
IV. Documents distributed to the participants at the Meeting.	xxix

*Provisional enumeration of pages.

/Part I

Part 1

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. Place and date

1. The Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements, called by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) was held in San Jerónimo Lídice, Mexico City, in the Inter-American Centre for Studies on Social Security (CIESS), of the "Unidad Independencia" of the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS), from September 13-17,1976.

2. Attendance

2. Representatives of 20 nations who are members of the Commission attended the Reunion: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, the United States and Venezuela.

3. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were represented in the meeting: the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational , Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

4. Representatives of other organisms and offices of the United Nations also attended: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT), the Latin American Institute of Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Latin American Demographic Center (CELADE), and the United Nations Centre of Housing, Building and Planning.

/5. Representatives

5. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were present at the Meeting The Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), the Andean Corporation for Economic Development (CAF) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

6. A complete list of the participants of the Meetings can be found in Annex III of this report.

3. Inaugural Address

7. The inauguration of the Meeting took place in the afternoon of September 13 in the Auditorium of the Inter-American Centre for Studies on Social Security. Mr. Luis Echeverría Alvarez, Constitutional President of the United Mexican States, duly inaugurated the Meeting after addressing the participants. Enrique Peñalosa, Secretary General of HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, and Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), also spoke.1/

8. In the first plenary session, held immediately after the opening ceremony, Mr. Ignacio Ovalle, Minister of the Presidency, delivered a speech upon assuming responsibility as the President of this Meeting. This speech may be found in Annex I.

4. Message from the Canadian Government

9. In the first plenary session the delegate from Canada as the special representative of the President of the Vancouver Conference, read to the participants a message from his Excellency, Mr. Barry Danson, Federal Minister on Urban Affairs in his country. The contents of this message may be found in Annex II of this report.

1/ The text of these speeches can be found in Annex I.

/5. Election

5. Election of Officers

10. In the first plenary session, held on September 13, and in accordance with the agreement reached by the chief delegates in the previous meeting, the following were designated as Officers of the Meeting:

President:	Ignacio Ovalle Fernández (Mexico)
First Vice-president:	Mrs. Fidelina TH. de Aguilar (Dominican Republic)
Second Vice-president:	Colonel Alonso Flores Guerra (Honduras)
Rapporteur:	Héctor Echechuri (Argentina)

6. Agenda and documents

11. At the same session the participants of the Meeting adopted the following agenda which had been submitted to them by the Secretariat as (ST/CEPAL/Conf.58/L.1).

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. General appraisal of the results of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT), Vancouver, Canada
6. International co-operation programmes in the field of human settlements proposed by the Vancouver Conference:
   (a) Participation of the Latin American region in the implementation of the recommendations made at Vancouver
   (b) Institutional aspects
7. Regional co-operation in the field of human settlements:
   (a) General objectives of regional and sub-regional cooperation

/(b) General

(b) General lines for the co-ordination of co-operation activities at the regional and sub-regional level

8. Other business

9. Consideration of the conclusions and recommendations and adoption of final report of the Meeting

12. In the course of their deliberations - in addition to the document "Regional Co-operation in the Field of Human Settlements. Note of the secretariat" (ST/CEPAL/Conf.58/L.2.)- the participants of the Meeting had access to the documents, a list of which can be found in Annex IV of the present report.

7. Organization of work

13. Before the inauguration of the Meeting, informal discussions were held by the representatives of Latin American countries on Sunday, September 12, and by those heads of delegations of member countries of CEPAL participating in the work programme,on the morning of September 13.

14. In the above-mentioned meetings, aspects relating to the organization of work were discussed. In that held by the heads of delegations, an agreement was reached which stated that in plenary sessions, the consideration of the agenda would begin with item 5: "General appraisal of the results of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements", followed by an examination of "International co-operation programmes in the field of human settlements , proposed by the Vancouver Conference", (item 6).

15. With regard to item 7 of the agenda: "Regional Co-operation in the field of human settlements", it was considered that, due to its nature, it was advisable that it be the first item taken into consideration by the countries of the region that had decided to form a "Latin American Group",

/which would

which would initiate activities, without delay, under the presidency of the representative of Venezuela.

16. This group continued to work throughout the following days (September 14 and 15); in the plenary session held on September 16, it presented to the consideration of the participants the document "Draft prepared by the Latin American Group on regional co-operation on matters regarding human settlements". The text of this document may be found in Part III of this report.

17. The meeting of heads of delegations also agreed that the consideration of item 5 of the agenda should begin with a presentation made by the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

18. The activities of the meeting were facilitated by the following Secretariat: Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, Jorge Viteri de la Huerta, Secretary of the Meeting, Eduardo Neira, Technical Advisor, Francisco Giner de los Ríos, Editor, Luis Carlos Sánchez, Head of Information Services, and Alma Barbosa, Conference Officer.

8. Closing Meeting

19. In the last plenary session, held on September 17, in the afternoon, the Rapporteur presented his report to the participants in the Meeting. It was approved by the participants for its presentation at the next session of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Secretariat of CEPAL was authorized to make the necessary changes in form or style, as well as any additions which might arise at the last moment.

20. In the closing session, which followed, speeches were delivered by. . . . . .

. . . . . .

/Part II

Part II

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. General discussion

21. In the course of the debates of the Meeting several delegates, including some observers from international agencies, pointed out that the Conference of Vancouver represented a milestone of essential importance in the awakening of universal awareness of the problems of human settlements and their close relationship to the eventual attainment of true and integral economic and social development.

22. It was not a question of reiterating what had already been discussed and analyzed in Vancouver, nor trying to appraise, in depth, the results and scope of that Conference scarcely three short months thereafter; but rather it was a question of trying to concentrate on how to implement, as quickly as possible, the guidelines for national, sub-regional, regional and international action that were recommended in Vancouver, making adequate adjustments in those guidelines to fit to the peculiarities of each country, people or region.

23. Therefore, the importance of initiating decidedly the phase of operations and implementation of convergent measures was generally stressed in order to facilitate solutions to complex problems arising from human settlements in accordance with present and future demands.

24. It may be stated that the deliberations were not characterized by an approach that would permit their being summarized in direct relation to each of the specific points on the agenda of the Meeting, but rather by the interrelated aspects among those different points and their indiscriminate application within the context of the reality of Latin America.

/25. To a great

25. . To a great extent those aspects were the spirit and orientation demonstrated by the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements upon initiating the appraisal of the results of Vancouver (point five of the agenda). At the request of the participants, the statement of Mr. Enrique Peñalosa is included in the annexes of this report.1/

26. Several delegations described the current situation and position of thier national policies in the field of human settlements in the light of the results of the world conference. And, it was clearly demonstrated that these results, in spite of the short time that has elapsed since the Vancouver Conference, have already had a strong impact on the countries involved in projects in this field.

27. One delegation pointed out that its country had initiated, after the Vancouver Conference, an integrated programme of development in the field of human settlements - including communal agricultural development and environmental sanitation - which affects three thousand families who live on fifteen thousand hectares along a river. The representative considers this project that is beginning to operate, the first results of the recommendations of Vancouver.

28. Another delegation informed the participants of the activities that are beginning to be developed in its country which reflect the guidelines outlined at the recent ecc international meeting. Public and private institutions are joining forces to reconsider, at different forums, the problems encountered and new ways to approach them. They pointed out that the preliminary activities being made for the Sixth Inter-American Congress on Housing, to be held next year in Medellin, Colombia, are clearly oriented in towards following the international recommendations in a practical way.

1/ Due to problems of time, Mr. Peñalosa's statement will only be included in the final version of this report.

/29. Several

29. Several delegations stressed the importance of training personnel within the projects and programmes on human settlements and one of them emphasized that the interchange of information is a principal aspect to which priority should be given in technical assistance provided in this field.

30. A member of the Committee representing a non-Latin American country pointed out that, by the end of 1976, a catalogue will be prepared of the whole audio-visual collection, including the use of systematized information. Production of films on HABITAT themes has begun and will be added to the catalogue. The first series of twelve films will be used in conferences.

31. He also reported that his country hopes to produce a radio series in co-operation with a regional centre to correct the "unrealistic expectations of aspiring majorities who suffer a cultural identity crisis as they move to the cities", as pointed out in the CEPAL report to HABITAT.

32. During the debate several observers from international agencies, informed the delegations of their activities in the field of human settlements.

33. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stated that his organization considers itself a major participant in the efforts being made to carry out the recommendations of Vancouver, that have necessitated a reconditioning of human activities regarding the well-being of Man. These activities are only a part of those included in the general field of environment; but, human settlements are of basic importance to the understanding of the relationship between environment and development.

34. He announced that the actions of UNEP, especially through the Fund for Environment and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, will be based on the recommendations for action made in Vancouver in the future He considered the meeting on technology in the field of human

/settlements

settlements, held recently in Mexico City, of great interest in which CEPAL collaborated, and he stated that UNEP is carrying out studies concerning the financing of a regional programme on this subject.

35. Finally, he stressed that the momentum acquired at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements must not be lost, and that it is of utmost importance to remember that the artificial and natural environments are interrelated and cannot be separated without serious consequences.

36. The observer from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) pointed out that the growth in population, the production of food and other agricultural products, the transference of the active population to other sectors, and the dissemination of the population-all characteristics of agricultural Latin America- are basic factors that require urgent action. The approach, however, should be integrated so as to attain the most effective improvement of habitat for all people and reduce the disparities between rural and urban areas.

37. In order to attain these objectives, it is necessary to examine the basic causes of the present situation, principally the poverty of farmers, the indifference towards the rural sector, the disparity of incomes and the lack of opportunities.

38. He considered it urgent to create intermediary centres that would act as markets and centres for rural services and would offer new occupational, educational and social opportunities, thereby contributing to the general socioeconomic development.

39. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) expressed the interest his institution had in examining the possibilities of also participating in regional activities, since its relations with countries are normally carried out, within its current policy, at a bilateral level.

40. He pointed out that there is no "operative sector" that could bear the name "human settlements", and that the

possibilities for integrated action at this level still need to be institutionalized in such a way that they could be put into practice through existing financial systems. Initially, this task might take the form of strategies for action which seek to solve, at the regional level, those problems that, up until now, have proven to be difficult at a national level. These strategies might be an important part of the action with which CEPAL has been entrusted, and of interest to the IBD as a means to broaden its operations in the field of human settlements.

41. The observer of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) indicated that it is not only important to be aware of the magnitude and tendencies of demographic phenomena, but also to know their causes and possible consequences. One of them - possibly the most important one - is the relation which exists between the deterioration of the environment and accelerated urban growth, and also the relation between rural spread-out and under development.

42. This can be observed in the research carried out by CELADE, whose activities and studies - especially on relating to urban growth in seven Latin American countries - were described to those who attended the Meeting.

43. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) pointed out that health must be considered as an element within the boundaries of human settlements. WHO's current concern is to put into practical terms, the content and form for achieving the integration of health with the sanitary, ecological, and social aspects of the community, using a global and multi-disciplinary approach.

44. In view of the fact that the recommendations made in Vancouver concerning habitat emphasize human values and the quality of life, it was considered that attention should now be turned primarily to meeting the needs of human settlements and of lower-income groups of the population, which suffer from malnutrition and a lack of basic and

/health

health services. In his opinion, in order to be able to meet these needs on a regional level- even if we are to do so at only minimum levels- we need a new pattern of operation and mechanisms for coordination and co-operation which are broader and better defined than the ones presently in existence.

45. The observer from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) reported to the Meeting that his organization has a fund for social development amounting to 50 million dollars. Until now, it has utilized this fund especially in housing and rural development in general. It now intends to allocate these resources primarily to infrastructure and agroindustry. The working procedures which the BCIE is attempting to utilize tend toward pilot projects at the settlements level.

46. The representative of the Center for Housing, Construction and Planning of the United Nations Economic and Social Council participated on two occasions during the deliberations. The first time he spoke, he informed the participants of the Center's activities and programmes. The second time, -occurred when the tasks of the Meeting were almost over and when its results were being reported- he expressed his enthusiastic support for the proposal that resources be allotted to establish and strengthen entities of human settlements in regional economic commissions. He pointed out that what is achieved in Latin America may be extremely beneficial for other regions, and that, for this reason, it is imperative to assure the financing of regional programmes because it is not sufficient to define the priorities of said programmes, but rather we must also see to it that we have the resources needed to carry them out.

2. <u>Regional co-operation in matters related to human settlements.</u>

47. The discussion of this item of the agenda took up a

/great part

great part of the tasks and time of the participants. Due to its nature, at first the deliberations regarding this subject were left in the hands of the Latin American Group, established in the very Meeting and presided over by the Head of Delegation of Venezuela.

48. This Group worked in depth and at length, since the discussions of this subject included very diverse problems and viewpoints, which nevertheless allowed them to achieve the consensus on the part of Latin American nations which was being sought before the next period of sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, which would examine the present report with its possible recommendations.

49. Once this consensus was achieved within the Latin American Group, the Meeting -during its last plenary work session,- was informed of a draft regarding regional co-operation in matters relating to human settlements (document No.1 from the conference room) which was submitted by the alternate representative of the Delegation of Venezuela, whose head -and President of the Group- had had to leave Mexico.

50. The participants of the plenary session were informed that the draft is oriented toward the achievement of the goals which will enable the guidelines for action included in Chapter III of the Vancouver Declaration, to be carried out. Thus, governments are advised to broaden their efforts -at a national, regional, and sub-regional level- geared toward the adoption of positive and concrete measures which seek the improvement of the quality of life of Latin American countries.

51. Likewise, and considering the urgent need to initiate coordinated activities on sub-regional and regional levels, in this document, governments are advised to assure themselves, as soon as possible of the basic means which maximize international co-operation in matters related to human settlements.

/52. On the other

52. On the other hand, in the same draft, it was requested to the Secretariat of the ECLA that it prepare a report based on the guidelines which are set down in the Vancouver Declaration and on the objectives which the Group has outlined in its deliberations, so that -after the report has been reviewed at the next United Nations General Assembly- it can be presented to the meeting of the Committee of High Level Government Experts. Said Committee, could draw up a set of pertinent recommendations for CEPAL'S seventeenth period of sessions, called to meet in Guatemala in April of 1977.

53. The presentation of the document in the plenary session of the Meeting raised a lengthy debate which would be difficult to describe in detail The delegation from Brazil -which was joined by the Colombian delegation- proposed changes to the text of the draft presented in the plenary session, and eventually withdrew said proposal, although it announced that it would request that its reservation be recorded in the final report of the Meeting.

54. As far as the representative of the United States is concerned, he expressed his position with regards to the final consideration of the report, before it was made, and submitted to the Secretariat of the Meeting a summary of his participation so that the Rapporteur would include it in the present summary of debates. The text of this delegation reads as follows:

> "Please do not accept our silence to date as lack of interest -on the contrary- I had the pleasure to participate in HABITAT and since then have been all over the world. I sense that the recognition and sharing of solutions on Human Settlements is at and all-time high. The quest for new ideas from other countries has never been more intense and professional organizations in the urban field have mounted new efforts to seek and to share solutions internationally. We have been very encouraged by the invitation of

/CEPAL in

CEPAL in this matter and are very grateful for the generous hospitality of our Mexican hosts in this beautiful capital.

I want to assure our partners in CEPAL that the United States is ready to be forthcoming with its resources as the problem comes before it, to help in the major task which is ahead of us. We need to learn from you, our fellow CEPAL Nations, and we want to try to make our contribution as well.

We will follow the future course of the document before us with great interest recognizing that so soon after HABITAT would not be possible to produce a perfect document of regional institution management.

We appreciate the seriousness of content and interest shown here and in that spirit are supportive of the efforts made. We will look forward to participating fully in the discussion of this document at the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL".

55. The Secretary of the Meeting spoke briefly on behalf of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL regarding the position held by this organism with respect to the scope of its commitments in relation to the mandates which this draft implied for said Secretariat. The Delegation of Colombia announced that although it will withdraw its objections, Last of all, the draft of the Latin American Group was approved by a consensus of the assembly.

56. The representative from Brazil explained the reservations of his country regarding the approved draft (and submitted to the Secretariat of the Meeting, the corresponding text). His statement reads as follows:

"The Delegation from Brazil, with regard to the points established in paragraph eight ("Bearing in mind") and in operative paragraph B-2-b, wishes to reiterate that the Brazilian government gives its support to the establishment patterns of coordination and co-operation among the countries of the region in the field of human settlements, thereby recognizing the importance of this subject for the economic and social development of the region.

/The Delegation

"The Delegation from Brazil wishes to state that the establishment of permanent advisory mechanims is the prerogative of national sovereignty and therefore can not be administered by international agencies. The Delegation from Brazil would be willing to give support to all the recommendations that are requested of the governments, bearing in mind the need to establish systematic means of coordination between the countries of the region that will make mutual co-operation among them possible so that their own resources and experiences in the field of human settlements -as well as in any other type of activity that leads to economic and social development in the region- can be used in a complementary way".

57. The representative from Colombia expressed his wish that his support for the reservation presented by the Delegation of Brazil be recorded.

3. Other subjects

58. Once the discussion of item 7 of the agenda was over, as already explained, item 8 "Other subjects" was discussed by the participants. The Rapporteurship wishes to clarify that some of the items which were considered in the last plenary work session -for instance, the one related to the audiovisual methods used in the exchange and diffusion of information- have been summarized in previous paragraphs (see paragraphs 30-31, which deal with the forementioned subjects) in view of the fact these subjets that had also been considered at the beginning of the Meeting.

59. One of the delegations called attention to the interest regarding the supply of drinking water and sanitary waste disposal -these items being of priority in the Vancouver recommendations- that this Meeting might have in the United Nations Conference on Water, which is to be held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, in March of 1977, and submitted to this effect, a draft of a resolution, which was approved in full, as a recommendation, by participants. The corresponding text can be found in Part III of this report.

/60. The

60. The representative from Brazil, who had submitted his reticence regarding the draft dealing with regional co-operation in matters relating to human settlements (see above paragraph 56), which was first approved by the consensus of the Latin American Group and afterwards in the plenary session, expressed to the participants his desire that note should be taken of the position of his delegation concerning the activities of said Group, about which he had requested some clarifications and asked the Rapporteur and the Secretariat of the Meeting to include the following text in the present summary of debates. "In its attempts to arrive at a common position with regards to the Latin American Group regarding the creation of an international organism in matters relating to human settlements and to contribute to the activities of the Latin American Group in New York during the Thirty-first General Assembly, the Delegation from Brazil participated in the deliberations and consensus which was reached by the Group during the activities of the present Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements. Nevertheless, the Delegation from Brazil understands that the conclusions reached by the Group regarding this matter, do not represent the will of the majority, and that the "follow up" on Vancouver should be carried out by means of the expansion and reinforcement of the organisms already existing in the United Nations. Consequently, the Delegation from Brazil wishes that the decision referred to does not bind it in its position regarding the tasks of the Thirty First General Assembly of the United Nations".

61. The Delegate from Colombia requested that his agreement with Brazilian position be recorded in the Report of this Meeting.

/ 62. The

62. The representative of a Caribbean Republic, in reference to the recommendation made to the Secretariat of the ECLA, (which can be found in the document on regional cooperation in matters related to human settlements)[1/] in order that a report on this subject be made, indicated it was advisable that the countries express their interest (if any) to participate and cooperate in the governmental consultations included in the approved draft. Such indication would facilitate coordination on a regional and sub-regional level, and should bear in mind the principle of equitable geographic distribution.

63. A delegation from the region of Central America mentioned a contribution it had made to the Latin American Group, which had been entrusted with the preparation of recommendations concerning regional-institutional matters. Since this contribution was not included in the approved draft, the delegation added, it would submit it to the consideration of the Chair, in order to make a new contribution to the study requested by the ECLA.

64. The Chairman of the Meeting pointed out that, in his judgment, the aim of the approved draft was that the countries concerned, - upon making a contribution in the form of suggestions and ideas regarding the institutional and operational aspects, on a regional level, in matters related to human settlements - address themselves directly to the Executive Secretariat of the ECLA, without detriment to the consultations to be made among them.

65. The Secretary of the Meeting, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the ECLA, pointed out that the interpretation of the Chairman was in agreement with what the Secretariat had

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1/ See paragraph 67 of Part III of this Report, and in the same draft, in part B, number 2.

/had in

had in mind, and that it had already planned to establish direct contacts with the governments on these and other similar matters. Last of all, another delegation expressed its desire to participate in the tasks to be carried out.

66. Lastly, on concluding this summary of the debates (which has not been drawn up in an orderly manner, due to the circumstances which characterized the activities of the Meeting), the Rapporteurship wishes to make note of a moving event: at the proposal of the Delegate from Chile, the representatives of the participating countries rendered homage to the memory of Duccio Turin, Deputy Executive Secretary of HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, who contributed in an extraordinary way to the success attained in Vancouver, and whose tragic death deprives this organization of one of its most remarkable actors in the realization of the agreements reached in Vancouver.

/Part III

Part III

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

67. During the last work plenary session, the assembly as a whole approved this document, presented by the Latin American Group as a result of its proceedings.

DRAFT PREPARED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP ON REGIONAL COOPERATION ON MATTERS REGARDING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The representatives of the Governments of the Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements:

Bearing in mind that the Vancouver and Caracas Declarations -approved in HABITAT: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, and in the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America on Human Settlements, respectively- are instruments that set the guidelines and criteria at the international and regional levels in this field, as well as the criteria approved by the countries of the region in matters relating to environment as established in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Goberning Council of UNEP,

Recognizing that if present patterns of development in Latin America continue with their resulting concentration of population in urban areas, in the next 25 years between 10 and 12 million people per year will join the ranks of their cities and towns, which is approximately equivalent to the regions present population of 300 million, and that tne proper solution for this problem requires the adoption of urgent measures on national, sub-regional and regional levels,

Recognizing that the objective of integrated economic and social development should have as its focus Man and the improvement of the quality of his life, and that it is the responsability of governments to prepare national programs and plans which include policies on human settlements in line with that goal,

Recognizing further that those policies should constitute the indispensable element of a comprehensive strategy for development, linked and coordinated interalia, with those relating to industrialization, agriculture, employment, housing, population, education, health, recreation, social security, and the protection of our environment and culture and that, to this effect, our goverments ought to establish institutions and mechanisms in order to work out and implement those policies.

/Conscious of

Conscious of the need to consolidate the relationship for international cooperation which is a responsibility shared by all States, and that they should make all the necessary efforts to accelerate the conditions which permit them to adopt positive and concrete measures on national, sub-regional and regional levels, in order to find and put into effect solutions which propose to achieve the improvement of the quality of life of Latin American peoples,

Recognizing that regional and sub-regional cooperation constitute a proper way of findigg solutions for the problems of our countries, especially those that affect underprivileged social groups, and tends to create a Latin American community based on a genuine commitment which culminates in the application of a new international economic order based on equity, justice, and solidarity, as in the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Taking into account the urgent need to initiate actions coordinated on a regional level for cooperation in matters regarding Human Settlements, and recognizing that the efforts made by CEPAL in this field and that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) constitutes a forum for regional consultation in order to coordinate the efforts made with regard to international economic cooperation,

Bearing in mind the need to establish permanent mechanisms for communications between the countries of the region in the field of Human Settlements, which permit the encouragement of cooperation between them in order to utilize their own resources in a complementary manner,

Acknowledging the fact that it is necessary to put into practice new formulas for cooperation among all countries of the region, which permit them to achieve development based on the recognition of the qualitative aspects of said development,

They recommend:

A. To the governments of the region:

1. That they decide upon the coordination which they believe is appropriate, with the goal of integrating activities related to regional cooperation in matters regarding human settlements;

/2. That, with

2. That, with this goal in mind, they should have at their disposition a mechanism which they can use to renew and define their needs and priorities in this field,

3. That, with the goal of facilitating regional cooperation the following information on matters regarding human settlements be prepared as soon as possible:

a) An inventory of their professional and technical personnel in this field,

b) Local experiences,

c) Local methodologies and techniques which have been applied.

4. That, in national and international efforts made in this field, top priority be given to implementing the Guidelines for Action contained in Chapter III of the Vancouver Declaration,

B. To the Executive Secretariat of CEPAL, in consultation with the governments:

1. That the necessary conditions be created for the establishment of a regional intergovernmental committee on human settlements integrated by the countries of the region.

2. That the Executive Secretariat of CEPAL, in coordination with regional bodies interested in this field, prepare a report specifying the institutional ways and means that would be most effective towards the achievement of international cooperation at a regional and sub-regional level, as well as a program based on the following objectives in the field of human settlements.

a) To facilitate national activities within the framework of the agreements and recommendations

/made by the

made by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held at Vancouver, and the basic principles approved by the governments in matters regarding natural environment.

b) To establish permanent mechanisms for consultation between the countries of the region,

c) To encourage cooperation between the countries of the region in order to utilize their own human, technological and methodological resources, in a complementary manner,

d) To define regional and sub-regional programs of interest to all, as well as experimental pilot projects for urban and rural areas, which will take into account economic, social and cultural needs of the populations that are to benefit from them, mobilizing for this purpose the resources which come from financial organizations within and outside the region,

e) To keep in view, among others, the following aspects:

- Rural habitat
- Urban marginality
- Land use and tenure
- Legislation on human settlements
- Areas of high population density
- Intermediate cities
- Participation of the people
- Technology appropriate to the socio-cultural requirements
- Technology for conservation and recycling
- Preservation of the natural environment
- Natural disasters

/f) To include

f) To include the following basic functions:

- Research
- Training of human resources
- Technical assistance
- Financial aid
- Information services

3. That the above report should be presented to the Committee of High Level Government Experts of CEPAL at their next meeting, for the Committee to submit recommendations to the XVII session of CEPAL to be held in Guatemala.

4. That it explore with countries and with agencies for international cooperation within the system of the United Nations, and with others wherever advisable, the eventual possibility of obtaining funds to support activities in technical cooperation.

/68. In

88. In its last plenary work session, the Meeting approved the following recommendation concerning the United Nations Conference on Water.

The representatives of the governments in the Regional Latin-American Meeting on Human Settlements.

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Conference on Water will be held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in March 1977;

Recalling that the Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver recommended that the supply of potable water and the sanitary disposal of waste materials be given priority on the part of each country;

Recognizing furthermore, that the above-mentioned Conference recommended that each country establish quantitative and qualitative goals, setting a date on which their inhabitants would have the previously mentioned public services, and that these goals be examined at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Water,

1. Recommends that the countries of the region adopt programs to supply, if possible, potable water to the inhabitants of Latin America before 1990.

2. Recommends, furthermore, that the governments of the region take an active part in the United Nations Conference on Water, and that they present programs there that they have developed for supplying potable water to their respective regions; and

3. Requests international organizations and agencies of technical co-operation to provide assistance to the countries of the region in implementing the programs they have established.

/ANNEXES

ANNEXES

Annex I

OPENING ADDRESSES OF THE REGIONAL
LATING-AMERICAN MEETING
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

1

OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

The history of man is one of inequity and injustice. Many centuries of submission have left their mark of ignorance, disease and malnutrition on two thirds of the people living in the world today.

When the ties of political dependence were broken, contradictions flourished and channels for inconformity were opened. Nowadays no one questions the need for a change in the system which has prevailed up to the present time. All of us are aware that the survival of mankind is at stake in decisions made in these times.

We shall soon have to evaluate the second decade that the United Nations has dedicated to development. We are far from the enthusiasm that in 1960 greeted the beginning of the first decade. There were grounds for hope then.

Five years before, in Bandug, the recently liberated countries met to sanction the end of the existing empires. No event, at that time, was more important or attracted attention so overwhelmingly as the advent of the Third World on the new scenario of history.

At the end of World War II, mankind wished to ensure peaceful and stable conditions; high standards of living and more favourable perspectives for progress as well as social and economic development, for all people were among the conditions that were set down in the Charter of the United Nations in order to safeguard future generations from the scourge of war.

The euphoria of liberation has now given way to a period of reflection. Although the breaking of colonial ties was indubitably an important step towards achieving higher standards of living, it was not enough.

The demonstration of strong intentions to accelerate the rate of economic growth and the expression of a feeling of solidarity with the other developing countries are insufficient to meet the requirements of an equitable and self-sufficient process of development.

/In order

In order to be more accurate in the search for solutions to the serious problems that were discussed in Vancouver and which now lead us to specific considerations of what is happening in Latin America, we must not ignore the immediate antecedents of recent years nor those of the remote past.

As we all know, neither the process of industrialization nor the increase in social satisfactions of all kinds has been the cause, in Latin American countries, of the growth of cities. The decline in agricultural activities, the absence of programs relating to tasks of descentralization, synchronized with the population growth in our countries and the surplus labor with false hopes for employment and possibilities for educating their children, have caused mass migrations to our principal cities and have created a set of factors which multiply the problems concerning us.

I wish to leave you with the following thought as one more consideration amidst your concerns: as seen from the government's angle we cannot hit our target with the lack of funds, the highly unequal balances of payment, the budgetary deficits and the growth of inflation in many countries we cannot attack these problems thoroughly although we may have first class human and technical resources to seek solutions to them; we can only find thorough solutions to these problems by taking into consideration the general panorama of the economy, of trade, and of the difficulties involved in creating descentralization which furthers the establishment of new industries. We have to understand the general panorama in which we are immersed.

In Mexico we have created an institute which will be inaugurated tomorrow and you are all invited to the inauguration. The purpose of the institute is to correlate points of view that, as well as looking for solutions to problems of human settlements, may be able to deal with other basic subjects such as: the need to accelerate the process of agricultural and fishing production in order to increase the production of food and, at the same time, encourage masses of people to settle outside the big cities; the need for better commercial

/interchange

interchange with long-term financing at low interest rates; the need for an exchange of information among the countries of the Third World to facilitate economic and commercial interchange, rescuing them from dependence on major centres, the urgency to promote, without burdensome means that increase dependence, the transfer of useful technology that will enable us to promote our independent development at the pace and scope we wish; the need for a sociology of Third-World countries that will preserve ancient cultures of our countries which, in many cases, have been disrupted or distorted; the need to promote educational programmes suited to our independent development and to increase efforts which we have been carrying out during the past few years to bring together countries, without any political interests, in order to deal with economic problems and find regional solutions with solidarity in mind.

The problem of overcrowding, disadvantaged groups and slum areas without potable water and sewer systems, without even basic ideas about ways to construct with the simplest materials, is closely related to the general economy and, nowadays, the general economy stands out in sharp contrast between the great industrial countries and those countries which are not only in the process of development but, in many cases, are in a tragic process of involution as well. This has happened in economic and political affairs in many poor countries.

Enrique Iglesias said, and rightly so, that meetings such as the one held in Vancouver solve no problems directly and immediately, but do contribute to making people aware of their true nature. We wish to leave this meeting with the concern that the problems which have brought us here today have a historic background as well as a current and general economic and political basis interacting in the present world crisis.

If the international community is unable to attain a more just system and a new international economic order, the governments will have no resources, there will be no private savings, there will be no systems of credit to support the solutions to the problems that concern us in

/this meeting.

this meeting. Even though we become aware of these problems, make plans and have doctrines and concrete theses to solve them, they will become increasingly serious. The economic and political background, both historic and general, must be understood if we are to see the whole forest and not get lost among a few trees.

I wish this meeting great success and hope you will not lose sight of the general points of view so that the proposals at which you will arrive may be more accurate, the accuracy that our countries, with their economic decline and population increase, urgently require.

Welcome to Mexico. May you feel at home.

/2 WORDS

WORDS DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF HABITAT, MR. ENRIQUE PEÑALOSA

This is the first intergovernmental meeting called to study the implications of the HABITAT Conference in line with that conference's recommendations which were also subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. I wish to express my thanks to the Economic Commission for Latin America, to the Government of Mexico, and to all the other governments which were invited and are here represented for the organization of this meeting. I also wish to take advantage of this opportunity to thank President Echeverría for his attendance at the Conference of Vancouver, and his brilliant address which was most encouraging for all its deliberations.

However, permit me to state that I am not surprised at the response made by the countries of Latin America. The recommendations of HABITAT are of great importance to the entire world, but it is obvious that it is in our own region where the great problems of human settlements - population growth, rural migration, explosive urbanization, and the urgent need to improve housing, infrastructures, and public services - are most evident and where trends toward the future are most perturbing.

This is a terrifying challenge with economic, social and political ramifications which here, and at the present time, we cannot visualize in their totality. Nevertheless, the countries of our area, working both individually and collectively, are capable of meeting this challenge. We still have the land, resources, and organizing ability needed to face the massive changes which we shall encounter in coming decades.

Among the many positive factors which are specially important within the context of regional efforts, I should like to point out only the following:

/1. CEPAL's long

1. CEPAL's long experience and the high levels of professional experience which it has at its disposal today, under the able and intelligent direction of Mr. Enrique Iglesias.

2. The resources of the Inter-American Bank for Development and the clear grasp of all the subjects which was shown by its president, Mr. Ortiz Mena, in Vancouver.

3. The years of effort by the Organization of American States and the Panamerican Office for Health with the resulting store of experience and knowledge that has been acquired.

4. And, I believe, the geographical unity of our region with its many problems but also with its common desire to progress.

Distinguished delegates: For more than 20 years I have devoted myself to the struggle for development, first in Colombia, later in the Inter-American Bank for Development, and most recently on the world stage of the United Nations. In view of this experience, and particularly of the experience of recent years, I have become convinced that the subjects to be discussed at this present meeting are absolutely vital to the future welfare of all our countries and are intimately linked to the great theme of development.

At the same time that we must seek a new economic order on a world scale, doing so with tireless determination, we must also contemplate the problems which are our own responsibility within our national societies and within the Latin-American region.

Latin America has the world's highest population growth rate and also the world's highest urban growth rate. In the next 25 years our region will reach a total of almost 600 million inhabitants, of which 500 million will try to build their lives within an urban environment.

For this reason, it is necessary that this reunion, these few days spent here, be something more than a mere regional meeting of a group which forms part of the United Nations. Although the need for international cooperation in the field of human settlements is very important - I hope that your governments will take an active part in

/planning for

planning for such cooperation in the deliberation of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to be held within a few weeks - our main effort must be made on national and regional levels. So, this meeting must be a Latin-American meeting which is searching for its own answers and one which has its own vision of the future. I hope that this meeting will take specific actions and make concrete plans for the activities that should be undertaken.

Distinguished delegates and friends: There is little more for me to say, except to express my gratitude to your governments and many of you personally for having supported the HABITAT Conference and me, in particular, during the past two years. My role as Secretary General of HABITAT will soon reach its end, although I will see you again during the deliberation of the General Assembly. The report of the conference and its recommendations have been submitted to your governments and to all the other governments in the world. Speaking as a Colombian and as a Latin American, I only wish that a considerable number of these recommendations can be fully implemented in our region in order to assure Latin America and its inhabitants of a promising future.

WORDS SPOKEN BY MR. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLA AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE MEETING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

I wish to open my brief remarks by expressing once again to the President of Mexico and to the Mexican Government my gratitude for the indeclinable support which they have always given to projects of the United Nations and in particular to those which are especially assigned to ECLA for development.

I find this time and place a fitting occasion to publicly reiterate to President Echeverría how much we at ECLA have appreciated his unswerving support during recent years, not only the benevolence with which his administration has looked upon our proposals, but also his inspiration and the faith he has shown in what we have been doing. Attitudes like his, and those of his administration, help the United Nations to reinforce their principles and encourage us to continue our efforts. Mr. President, on the behalf of the Institution that I have the honor to direct, I wish to express to you my sincere gratitude for all your invaluable support.

I likewise wish to thank all the distinguished delegates here who, on such short notice, were able to accept this invitation from the Secretariat of ECLA, and attend this meeting. I also wish to extend a special greeting to Don Enrique Peñalosa, Secretary General of the HABITAT Conference, who is present and has just honored us with the words he addressed to this meeting. I consider it a great honor for Latin America that the head of that conference was one of its most distinguished spokesmen and one who has given so much dedication and enthusiasm to promote these matters. His own personal triumph has been a triumph for all Latin America and I should like to express

/to him

to him our recognition of his tenacious efforts that must be regarded as a high point in the history of the United Nations Organization.

The Vancouver Conference has been a new milestone in the task which the United Nations have set for themselves in recent years to come to grips with great world-wide themes of universal interest and international importance.

The work of the United Nations along these lines has been expanded to an astonishing degree. It began with the World Forum on Environment in Stockholm and then continued with the World Forum on Population in Bucharest, the World Forum on Industrialization in Lima, and subsequently the Conference on Nutrition in Rome last May and the HABITAT Conference in Vancouver. Now preparations are being made for the Conference on Water in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in May, 1977.

The international community should not let this series of events pass by without taking note that we are now entering a new field in the life of our institution which consists in a concern for important themes that will affect the future course of mankind itself. These are themes which in one way or another are establishing the true links of human interdependency because they are expected to touch on profund matters in which the very destiny of Man is at stake.

The Vancouver Conference was one more step in the ripening process of the system of international co-operation and so constitutes a fundamental point of consolidation of the new fields of action of the United Nations which are destined to give that system the vitality that we all expect and long for.

The matters dealt with in Vancouver were very important and their examination by the Conference produced a fundamental

/result: to help

result: to help provide an awareness of the gravity and magnitude of the problem of human settlements and to promote and encourage international co-operation in seeking appropriate solutions.

From Stockholm in 1972 to Vancouver in 1976 there was a long process during which the United Nations began to circle around and approach that concept which is so complex and important, known as life style.

Vancouver provided us with an essential aspect of life styles, one that concerns the way in which human settlements determine, to a great extent, the appropriateness and quality of man's existence on earth. This problem makes no distinction between rich and poor, but is especially important to the poor because in their case, as nowhere else, life style definitely becomes to us humans, to the great majority of mankind, a matter of life itself.

The magnitude of the problem was seen at the Vancouver meeting. And it was also seen in its sociopolitical aspect. It was seen that the problem was not, after all, exclusively a technical one, but that it also implied very close involvement with every social and economic factor in the socioeconomic system we have in the world today. And it was seen that wherever the subject was investigated in underdeveloped societies, poverty loomed up in the background as a basic explanation in which economic organization, social organization, and spatial organization were directly involved.

The Vancouver Conference could not ignore the interdisciplinary roots that problems of human settlements present, nor their close and deep-rooted connection with poverty and underdevelopment. Neither could the Conference

on HABITAT ignore the international dimensions of the matter in the sense that problems connected with poverty have a direct relation to the existence of the present international economic system and the need for profound changes to remove the barriers which really hinder a proper sharing of opportunities in the modern world.

For Latin America it was likewise an extraordinary occasion. There were discussions and many things were said that had never been said before. The size of the problem was seen in all its gravity. The implications of urban sprawl were recognized. There was recognition of the thorny problem of public utilities which - among other things - finds nearly 130 million Latin Americans without acceptable systems of drinking water. There was also recognition of the tremendous economic problem that will arise from attempts to incorporate new groups of people in urban centres in coming years. A yearly investment of 40 000-50 000 million dollars will be necessary over the next few decades in Latin-America just to cover the costs of urban infrastructure, an amount equal to the gross total of fixed investments in all Latin America in 1970. And behind the themes of environmental prospects loomed the significance of human settlements as factors in polluting water, rivers, the environment, and the atmosphere. All the welter of rural problems was seen to be directly involved with these matters, and the problem of migration from rural areas, so deeply rooted in rural structures, was seen to be at the bottom of this crowding that threatens urban centres. There was a view of the future, a future that in twenty years will be knocking on our door, a future in which Latin America will have nearly 50 cities of over a million inhabitants while some of them, if present trends continue, will reach truly astonishing size.

/That is:

That is: Latin America was able to perceive, through self-examination, the dimensions of the problem at the level of each country; and, in my judgement, that was the great achievement of the Conference. Latin America was also able to evaluate, at Vancouver, the real socioeconomic dimension of its region: that is, its ambivalence. Within this evaluation, we have a region that has made progress surprising to the entire world; a region that today is capable of producing more than 200,000 million dollars, equivalent to Europe in 1950. Although Latin America today is capable of reaching more sophisticated levels of industrialization, going out into the world and exporting highly technical products and achieving spectacular growth rates in at least some countries of the region, there are still deep contradictions. This same region that currently has a per capita income of 600 or 700 dollars continues to have more than 100 million Latin Americans who live in conditions of extreme poverty. These conditions may be better appreciated if one notes that, of the one hundred dollar increase in per capita income in the decade of the sixties, only two dollars went to 20% of the Latin Americans with low incomes. The problem of human settlements can definitely be found in this extreme poverty as a natural result, directly connected with the difficult economic situation that prevails in different areas within our region.

Certainly the Vancouver Conference made us take note of the very roots of the problem of our underdevelopment, and made us see the need to approach this subject with a view to jointly analyzing, studying, and questioning at the level of each country, the type of development which prevails in the region.

/The regional

The regional meeting inaugurated today, is a direct sequel to another regional forum, held in Caracas, where the countries of Latin America received information to prepare themselves to attend the Vancouver Conference. We wish to accomplish three things at this meeting: First, the distinguished delegates should take inventory, make an over-all evaluation of the results of Vancouver; an act of collective reflection, I would say, on what have been their great guidelines and their great inspirations. Unquéstionably, President Echeverría, contributed valuable ideas to that conference that inspired many of its resolutions. It is, therefore, a great honor to have him here with us today.

Secondly, we wish for the governments to indicate to our Secretariat and to the agencies working in the various areas, how they perceive their problems in light of the recommendations made at the Vancouver Conference. Finally, distinguished delegates, we believe that this meeting should be a starting point for effective regional co-operation. I invite the distinguished delegates to define what might be a dynamic program of regional co-operation in Latin America in this field. I believe that, without prejudice to the progress which legitimately must be made co-operatively at a world level, there is an enormous, undeniable field for national action where each government must act. But, there is also an enormous and important field for regional action where Latin America, which has had abundant experience in co-operation in recent years, could demonstrate effective solidarity for implementing programs that make sense and could be put into effect inmediately.

/I am certain

I am certain that not only we of ECLA, but all of the agencies that are presently collaborating with the corresponding programs on human settlements, are completely willing to accept the mandates agreed upon at this forum. In this sense, I declare that this meeting may signify a historic starting point for the study and orientation of adequate national and regional policies to contribute to the solution of problems of human settlements within the ambit of one generation or within the ambit of acceptable prospects for all the countries of the region. The Secretariat of ECLA is definitely committed and will do all in its power to accept these mandates and implement them with your help.

Let us display on a regional level the same faith and confidence which the President of Mexico has shown in meeting this matter and has made it one of the important targets of his government.

I wish you delegates the best of success in your deliberations. Thank you.

4

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. IGNACIO OVALLE FERNANDEZ, SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Mexico offers to you its warmest hospitality and expresses its hope that the work and discussions that begin today will bear fruit in the form of practical formulas for understanding and co-operation to deal with one of the most dramatic examples of contemporary injustice.

We have held that the great problems which vex mankind and which have been reflected in recent United Nations conferences concerning the human environment, food, population, equal rights for women and our subject: human settlements must be handled on the basis of the real needs of each country.

Now we must insist that there can be no real solutions to these and other problems which overwhelm our countries if we fail to consider them on an overall scale. We know that the isolated efforts of each country to correct phenomena whose structural origins extend far beyond our own frontiers are not enough. At the same time we could never be satisfied to meet our great challenges with intended partial responses which in the end would thwart the longings of mankind for justice and liberty and the eternal aspiration of nations to preserve and consolidate their independence.

We are obliged to formulate a new scheme for co-operation, understood, as a system to support the efforts of all our countries to choose our own options for collective justice in a framework of international solidarity.

The term of developing countries, which has been applied, when many of them are in a frank state of retrogression, constitutes in reality a sarcastic fallacy. The Third World faces a desolate panorama. What has been hailed as international co-operation has actually been, in a great many cases,

a web/

a web of enticements spread by the centres of economic power to sell their goods and with it maintain their production and consumption patterns while remaining indifferent to the real needs of our peoples.

At the same time, what is more dramatic is that dozens of our countries are borne down, by virtue of these processes, under the weight of foreign debts which in fact not only have blocked the development of their national economies but have served to strangle their initiative and even impose situations which we do not hesitate to call regressive.

It is necessary to prevent that under the cloak of such a badly understood co-operation there be imposed on us again, this time in the specific field of human settlements, alleged solutions which not only are materially burdensome but would divert us further from our goals of progress.

Today no one questions that urban problems, like all others which can only be explained in terms of dependence and internal and external injustices, will not be solved by taking short-sighted views or without attacking their causes in the social and economic structure of each country and in the power structure prevailing in the current world order.

As was amply demonstrated during the discussions in Vancouver, the problem is not restricted to simple technical solutions. Its origins are deeply rooted in history and, once more, the great gaps that separate the rich countries from the poor ones may be clearly seen therein.

The urbanization process of the former was based on a state of abundance nourished by colonial wars and imperialistic expansion, while that of the latter was a result of poverty and despair, of the massive flight of peasants from impoverished rural environments toward the cities where far from finding a way to better their lot they fell into the trap of other forms of margination.

/The urban

The urban concentration of great people in metropolitan centers was part of a new pattern of living, but it was based on the exploitation of the colonized people. The massive exodus of rural paupers to the cities in dependent countries only illustrates the moral decay and bankruptcy born from an injust and subordinate development.

Out of the 13 cities which within ten years will have more than 10 million inhabitants, eight are in the Third World and four are in Latin America. If we do not now adopt drastic measures, this overcrowding of the abject poor will reach limits beyond any possibility of a rational and equitable control.

It is in this false urbanism of our countries where perhaps with greater impact, that fallacy of linear development, which assumes under development as a prior and natural step to development, falls to earth.

We must ask the advocates of this type of development whether our countries have indeed taken a step from an agrarian to an industrial economy. Where are the development of productive forces and the massive creation of paid employment opportunities which led to the concentration of population in metropolitan areas.

What we do find, on the other hand, is an accelerated growth of a false sector of services which is not derived from great productivity or technological progress, but which is based on marginal employment,, rendered by the underemployed in our urban centres under parasitic and highly inefficient conditions.

The peasants who migrate to Latin American cities are not incorporated into a nonexistent economically thriving big city mainstream but into a world of social and human disintegration which widens economic and cultural gaps.

In Latin America we cannot divorce the question of human settlements from the problem of unemployment and underemployment. Our basic concern, far from bogging down in the

study of/

study of the physical aspects of urban growth, must be focused in the widest possible sense, the on the existing social structures in each country and the international economic order which shapes them.

Its reorganization must be radical and must be carried out promptly if we do not wish to witness an explosion on a world-wide scale, since the conditions that create the poverty and the margination of our peoples are also world-wide.

In recent years we have repeatedly declared that unless we are able to find the formulas for a balanced progress we may perhaps witness soon the end of the age of international conferences, just like the periods of fruitless negotiations that used to end on the eves of great wars. And of our discussions there will only remain memories of indignation and incomprehension and once more folly will leave its imprint on history.

In Mexico, as in other countries represented here, important steps have been taken for implementing an organic and congruent policy for regional and urban development.

We have begun to regulate human settlements as is consistent with our social objectives and within a framework of democratic participation that respects our civil rights. As a result of the amendments to the Constitution and the law passed on that same subject, we have obtained a consensus in general terms by all the federal states and territories in the country regarding the national process of urbanization and its future outlook.

At the same time we have had to make a substantial effort to overcome a shortage of qualified professionals and technical experts in this field. This is an area of special importance to the co-operation which we can now proceed to establish among peoples.

Other projects where we also intend to arrive at fruit ful regional agreements involve financing of development projects for the improvement of city life in the near future.

/However,

However, we know that the solution to this problem will not automatically emerge, not even with the most generous programs of foreign aid.

But we have acquired enough experience to stay away from oversimplification and any temptation to accept limited solutions as valid.

The presence of developing countries and in particular of Latin America at international forums has resulted in throwing new light on the analysis of the great problems we must face in order to reformulate the international order and establish the bases for a peaceful, equitable and balanced coexistence among nations.

The Third World countries have managed to integrate their common goals and undertake fruitful joint enterprises. We have produced a definite set of principle of world wide application in the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States and on the regional level we have also fostered forums which are uniquely our own, like the Economic System for Latin America (SELA).

With seven other countries in the area we have organized the Naviera Multinacional del Caribe (Multinational Shipping Line of the Caribbean)whose successful operations point to new and promising prospects for collective liberation.

This same spirit will be the inspiration of the inauguration tomorrow of the Third World Centre for Economic and Social Studies.

In the light of the arbitrariness of the monetary system, the injustices of the financial system and the existing practices of trade and transfer of technology which have not only dislocated the development policies of our countries but have also, in a growing number of them, favored denationalizing processes and altered, their domestic peace and destroyed their democratic regimes, we have waged a tireless battle to transform, in its essence, the international order which maintains them.

At the same time/

At the same time we are engaged in setting up mechanisms for co-operation among our countries. For this reason we are currently celebrating here in Mexico City a meeting of the Group of 77 for economic co-operation from which we expect to obtain substantial progress in integrating the efforts of the Third World.

We wish to express our appreciation to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin-America for organizing this meeting. CEPAL is a pioneer organization in the struggle of our countries to transform their economic and social structures. Since its founding as the first regional commission of the United Nations it has opened the way to various explorations of Latin-American realities and to the search for formulas that, can provide practical answers to our need for integration and for collective progress.

Its task has not been easy. However, its efforts have left a valuable core of experience as well as fundamentally, a realization of our need to preserve an attitude of criticism and of self-criticism in order to keep extending the path of progress for our peoples. Likewise, we wish to thank the Secretariat of the regional Latin-American meeting on human settlements and in particular Mr. Enrique Peñaloza and Mr. Enrique Iglesias.

Under the best of auspices we are initiating today a new endeavour for understanding and concentration of efforts. This meeting opens up new prospects for Latin-American integration and co-operation.

Annex II

MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE REGIONAL LATIN-AMERICAN MEETING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. BARRY DANSON, FEDERAL MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS IN CANADA

I would first like to congratulate the Economic Commission for Latin America and our host, the Government of Mexico, for seizing the opportunity so soon after HABITAT to follow up on the Vancouver Conference. It reflects a commitment to continue the momentum that brought us to Vancouver. We have so much that we now know we must do to improve our human settlements. In Canada, our HABITAT follow-up on the recommendations for national action is already underway.

But we have a long way to go, and a lot of work and thinking and re-thinking to do before we will be able to report to the Canadian public that we have implemented the recommendations which we approved on their behalf at the Conference. As those recommendations are addressed to governments for action within their own countries, there is no need to wait for General Assembly approval. For example, one month after the Conference, I, as the Federal Minister for Urban Affairs, convened a special one day meeting with my Ministerial colleagues from our ten provinces to discuss one of the key HABITAT issues: land,to review our existing land use and management policies. It was a modest but early start on at least one major issue, and another meeting has been scheduled for later this Fall.

/Internationally,

Internationally, I was pleased to learn that the Economic Commission for Europe's Committee on Housing, Building and Planning met last week in Geneva, and discussed the implications of HABITAT for the work of both the Committee and its member governments. One result was that the committee emphasized that it was ready to play a constructive role and to cooperate with a global governmental institution and other Regional Economic Commissions in the field of Human Settlements. Although Canada has only been active in the ECE Committee for a short time we are certainly convinced of the need and usefulness of this kind of cooperation on human settlements at the regional level.

It is the hope of many within and outside this region that our meeting today will make a major start in formulating the goals and means for cooperation on human settlements in Latin America. In this work, Canada is prepared to continue to work with you. I wish to offer my sincere and very best wishes to you for success in your deliberations.

/Annex III

Annex III

LIST OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING

I. PAISES MIEMBROS DE LA COMISION

Argentina

Representante: José Ma. Vázquez
Miembro de la delegación: Héctor A. Echechuri

Bolivia

Representante: Santiago Maese
Miembro de la delegación: Hugo Inchausti

Brasil

Representante: Pedro Mota Coelho

Canadá

Representante: James Langley
Miembros de la delegación: David Bickford, Robert D. Munro

Colombia

Representante: Rafael Machado
Miembro de la delegación: Rodrigo Arboleda H., Manuel Motta Motta

Costa Rica

Representante: Eladio Jara

Cuba

Representante: Nisia Agüero Benitez
Miembro de la delegación: Ramiro León Torraz

Chile

Representante: J. Ignacio Santa María Santa Cruz

Estados Unidos de Norteamérica

Representante: Robert W. Kitchen, Jr.
Miembros de la delegación: Abraham S. Friedman. Richard Seifman
Ronald D. Stegall

/Guatemala

Guatemala

Representante: Julio E. Dougherty L.
Miembros de la delegación: Carlos A. Escobar Armas, Héctor Manuel Rivera E., Carlos Enrique de la Cerda Acevedo

Haití

Representante: Augustin Roland
Miembro de la delegación: Louis Jadotte

Honduras

Representante: Alonso Flores Guerra
Miembros de la delegación: Mario Reina Idiaguez, Carlos Avila Brenes, William H. Kivett

Jamaica

Representante: Gerald De Bano Hall
Miembro de la delegación: Olive M. Gayle

México

Representante: Ignacio Ovalle Fernández
Representante alterno: Luis de Pablo
Miembros de la delegación: Jaime Luna Traill, Angela Alessio Robles, Valentín Samaniego Araujo, Gregorio Martínez Narváez, Jorge Velasco Ocampo, Leónides Guadarrama, Jorge A. Fuentes, Reynaldo Calderón Franco, Julio García Coll, Vicente Medel Martínez, Fernando Rivera Alvarez, Raúl Ramírez Alvizar

Nicaragua

Representante: Alejandro Montiel
Miembros de la delegación: Mario Martínez Marenco, Guillermo Pérez Palacios, Horacio Navas Castillo, Jorge Zamora Talavera

Países Bajos

Representante: G. J. van Epen

Panamá

Representante: Ana H. de Pitti
Miembro de la delegación: Elba Judith Ureña

/Perú

Perú

Representante: Felipe de Bustamante
Miembro de la delegación: José Alberto Carrión Tejada

República Dominicana

Representante: Jorge Alfonso Lockward Pérez
Representante alterno: Fidelina TH. de Aguilar
Miembros de la delegación: Francisco Rodríguez, Rolando Pérez Uribe, Fernando Ernesto Manbual Navarro

Venezuela

Representante: Diego Arria
Miembros de la delegación: Freddy Lepage, Alfredo Ascanio, Oswaldo Gamboa

II. REPRESENTANTES DE ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)

Antonio Venturelli

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO)

Angelo A. de Tuddo

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)

Silvia Rodríguez de Torres

Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)

Vicente H. Witt, Eduardo Gómez

Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento (BIRF)

Rafael A. Sison

III. OTROS ORGANISMOS DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)

Bruno Ferrari Bono

/Programa

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)

Vicente Sánchez, Yusuf Ahmad, Anastase Diamantidis

Centro de Vivienda, Construcción y Planificación de las Naciones Unidas

E. Paul Mwaluko

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)

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Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Asentamientos Humanos (HABITAT)

Enrique Peñalosa

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Luis Eduardo Rosas

IV. ORGANIZACIONES INTERGUBERNAMENTALES

Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA)

Heriberto Allende

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)

Luis C. Ratinoff

Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE)

Constantino Bernasconi

Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)

Gastón Araoz L.

Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA)

Beatriz de Majo, Knowlson W. Gift

Annex IV

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING

I. Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL)

Agenda (ST/CEPAL/Conf.58/L.1)

Regional Cooperation in the field of human settlements. Note of the Secretariat (ST/CEPAL/Conf.58/L.2)

II. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT)

Report of HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (A/CONF.70/15)

The Vancouver Action Plan

United Nations Environment Programme. HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. Report of the Secretary-General (A/31/156)

Statement by Enrique Peñalosa, Secretary-General of HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements at the 61st. session of the Economic and Social Council (HABITAT/INF.23)

Report of the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America (A/CONF.70/RPC/12)

Programmes for International Cooperation (A/CONF.70/6)

Programmes for International Cooperation: Addendum (A/CONF.70/6/Add.1)

Analysis of programmes of the Organizations in the United Nations System in the Field of Human Settlements (A/CONF.70/A/4)

III. United Nations Environment Programme

Final report of the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and HABITAT (Caracas 8-11 March, 1976)

Excerpts of the Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the Work of its Fourth Session (Nairobi, 30 March to 14 April, 1976)